



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
The Bureau of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
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E-NEWSLETTER MAKES DEBUT – This is the first issue of a new electronic newsletter from the N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management. It is an effort to improve communication with our partners at the local level – emergency management directors and other first responders, municipal officials and the general public – as well as at the state and federal levels. Using an electronic format has some distinct advantages over publishing a paper newsletter, although we will do that as well. We can get it out quicker and thus make it more timely. Each issue can be longer or shorter, depending on what is going on. And, of course, this format will hold down costs for the agency. To add or change your e-mail address on our distribution list, contact us at newsletters@nhoem.state.nh.us. And please pass the word. We'd like to add as many people in emergency management and public safety to our distribution list as possible. If you have comments or suggestions, contact Jim Van Dongen, public information officer, at jvandongen@nhoem.state.nh.us.

HURRICANE KATRINA DEVASTATES GULF COAST; RITA FOLLOWS – Hurricane Katrina came ashore early on the morning of Monday, August 29 as a Category 4 storm and was one of the most destructive storms to hit the United States. Three weeks later most of New Orleans was still uninhabitable. More than one thousand died and the tally of property damage will be in the billions. New Hampshire responded by sending 1,000 National Guard personnel, Red Cross staff and volunteers and others to aid in response and recovery operations. The destructiveness of the storm has prompted emergency managers across the country to re-think emergency plans.

New Hampshire's state EOC was activated over the Labor Day weekend, first to prepare in case Katrina headed north, and then to assist in the response to storm damage in the Gulf Coast. Governor John Lynch offered to take in 500 disaster victims evacuated from storm-ravaged areas. While some evacuees were airlifted to Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the New Hampshire flight was eventually cancelled. Even so, about 70 people from the Gulf Coast are believed to be in the state. Information for evacuees is available on the BEM website, www.nhoem.state.nh.us.

With the recovery from Katrina just beginning, Hurricane Rita reached Category 5 status in the Gulf and is expected to hit the Texas coast early Saturday morning as a Category 4. And hurricane season still has more than two months to go.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH – National Preparedness Month is a joint project of the U.S Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross intended to encourage all Americans to take steps to protect themselves and their families in case of an emergency. Governor Lynch, Emergency Services Director Bruce Cheney, Concord Red Cross Director Priscilla Greene and Citizen Corps Coordinator Mike Pacheco took part in a news conference in Concord to encourage New Hampshire residents to ensure that their families are prepared for emergencies. With Hurricane Katrina in mind, they strongly recommended that families stock emergency supplies and make emergency plans. The news conference, which was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, coincided with a Red Cross blood drive.

SW NEW HAMPSHIRE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS APPROVED – Hazard mitigation projects have been approved for three southwestern New Hampshire communities, aimed at reducing or eliminating damage from future flooding. The projects, in Westmoreland and Chesterfield in Cheshire County and Washington in Sullivan County, will cost just over \$78,000 in total, most of which will be funded by FEMA. The three projects involve the upgrade of culverts at South Village Road in Westmoreland Pond Brook Road in Chesterfield and King Street in Washington. All three projects are intended to accommodate a 25-year flooding event. They will be completed by spring 2006. Westmoreland and Chesterfield were damaged by flooding during a series of heavy rain storms that occurred between July 21 and Aug.18, 2003.

NEW BEM STAFF HIRED – Four new employees have joined the staff of N.H. BEM. Carol Swete is supervisor of the Instrument Maintenance and Calibration shop in the Operations Section, Arlene Magoon is the agency volunteer coordinator in the Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Section, Kim Kimball is a communications operator in Operations and Julia Chase is a program assistant in Tech Hazards. Welcome aboard to all!

BRUCE BOHANNAN IS NAMED EMD OF THE YEAR – Bohannon is Emergency Management Director in Swanzey. He was commended for his leadership in the community in emergency planning for the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant and for his work on Swanzey's Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation plans. He was also commended for assisting state and local officials with flood-related incidents, public health issues and assisting with local aircraft disasters. Bohannon has been Swanzey's emergency management director since 2002.

EM RADIO SPOTS TO AIR – Coming soon to a radio station near you – four new Emergency Management public information messages, produced in cooperation with the N.H. Association of Broadcasters. The 60 second announcements encourage home emergency planning, volunteer training, awareness of hazardous weather conditions and school emergency planning. They will be broadcast on nearly all New Hampshire radio stations from September through March.

NEW CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL ORGANIZED – Henniker has become the latest New Hampshire community to form a Citizen Corps Council, bringing the number in the state to 25. Citizen Corps Councils are the administrative boards that sponsor Community Emergency Response Teams and other community-based emergency preparedness programs. Citizen Corps is a great way to enlist volunteer help for short-handed emergency management directors. For more information, see www.nhcitizencorps.org.